

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----100916 152110Z /13

O 152043Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2864
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 03191

EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: MARR, MILI, IS, LE
SUBJECT: DRAFT LEBANESE LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL
REF: USUN 3190

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE DRAFT LETTER REFERRED TO IN
REFTEL WHICH TUENI GAVE LEONARD AND URQUHART ON AUGUST
14, 1978.
BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

- 1- FIVE MONTHS AGO EXACTLY TO-DAY, ON THE 14 OF
MARCH 1978, ISRAEL INVADED SOUTHERN LEBANON UNDER THE
FALSE PRETEXT OF REVENGE, AGAINST A PALESTINIAN QUESTION O
THE HAIFA - TEL-AVIV ROAD IN WHICH THERE WAS NO LEBANESE
MOVEMENT WHATEVER.

- IN THE VALUE OF THE INVASION, ISRAEL
SOURCES ANNOUNCED THAT THEY INTENDED TO KEEP A CERTAIN
"SECURITY CONTROL" OVER AN AREA OF "SIX TO TEN MILES DEEP"
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ALONG THE LEBANESE BORDER.

- 2- ON MARCH 17, THE SECURITY COUNCIL MET AT THE
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON. IN A RESPONSE HARDL
EVER EQUALLED IN TERMS OF BOTH CONSENSUS AND EFFECTIVENESS
LET ALONE SPEED, THE SECURITY COUNCIL PASSED, ON SUNDAY,
MARCH 19, RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426 (1978) CALLING ON ISRAEL

TO WITHDRAW AND ESTABLISHING A "UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON". THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL, STATED IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, OBJECTIVES, AND PLAN OF ACTION OF UNIFIL, WHICH STARTED OPERATIONS NO LATER THAN MONDAY MARCH 20.

- 3- AFTER MANY DELAYS, OF WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL TOOK DUE NOTICE, THE ISRAELIS, WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO WITHDRAW TOTALLY ON JUNE 13, DID NOT IN REALITY TURN OVER THE "BORDER AREA" FROM UNDER THEIR CONTROL TO UNIFIL, BUT TO "LEBANESE DE FACTO FORCES". THIS HAVE SINCE PREVENTED TOTAL AND UNBINDERED DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL.

H.E. MR. CHU CHEN
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

- 4- PRESSED BY THE UN AND BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE VARIOUS STATES CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY SOME OF THOSE WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE FORMATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL, THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, NOT WITHSTANDING THE VARIOUS OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES, STARTED IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426 (1978). ANXIOUS TO REGAIN FULL CONTACT AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS TERRITORY,
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ASSISTED BY UNIFIL - AS STATED BY THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESOLUTIONS - THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON STARTED TO MOVE UNITS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TOWARDS THE SOUTH ON MONDAY JULY 31 AND TUESDAY AUGUST 1. THE UN, UNIFIL, AS WELL AS THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND "CONTRIBUTING STATES" WERE DULY INFORMED WELL IN ADVANCE.

- 5- FURTHERMORE, IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON HAD CONSISTENTLY CONSIDERED AS CONSCIOUS - IN THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF JUNE 13, (DOC. S/12620/ADD 5)- "THAT ALL BORDER PROBLEMS SHALL HENCEFORTH BE DISCUSSED WITH UNIFIL AND IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A REACTIVATED ISRAEL-LEBANON MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION". A MEETING OF THIS COMMISSION (ILMAC) HAD BEEN HELD, AS REPORTED IN DOCUMENT S/12620/ADD 5, ON THE 12TH OF JUNE.

- IN THE LIGHT OF THIS ATTITUDE, AND PRIOR TO THE MOVEMENT OF FRESH UNITS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO THE SOUTH, ANOTHER MEETING OF ILMAC WAS REQUESTED AND HELD AT NAQURA ON JULY 30, 1978 AT 10H20, DURING WHICH ISRAEL WAS INFORMED OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF RESOLUTION
425 AND 426.

- 6- THE DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED
BY THE LEBANESE ARMY DETACHMENT IN ITS MOVEMENT TO THE
SOUTH SINCE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UN
THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS AND PARTICULARLY UNIFIL COMMAND
AND THE CHIEF CO-ORDINATOR, OF THE UN PEACE-KEEPING
MISSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS UN REPRESENTATIVES

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
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IN BEIRUT. THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON DID NOT DEEM IT
NECESSARY, NOR DOES IT DEEM ITS NECESSARY AS YET TO CALL
FOR A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE SAID
DIFFICULTIES OR THE VARIOUS OTHER DIFFICULTIES CREATED
WITH LOCAL FORCES ACTIVE IN THE BORDER AREA.

- 7- HOWEVER, AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SIX-
MONTHS MANDATE OF UNIFIL WILL HAVE TO COME UP FOR
ASSESSMENT AND PROBABLY RENEWAL IN A MONTH FROM TO-DAY,
IT NOW APPEARS NECESSARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON TO
CALL ON YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A-THAT RESOLUTION 425 (1978) (IN ITS FIRST OPERATION
PARAGRAPH), CLEARLY STATES THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL "CALL
"CALLS FOR STRICT RESPECT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEG-
RITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON
WITHIN ITS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES".

- B- THAT UNIFIL HAS NOT, YET, BEEN ENABLED TO ENTIRELY
FULFILL ITS MANDATE BY DEPLOYING FULLY INTO THE BORDER
AREA, THEREBY GUARANTEEING THE "STRICT RESPECT"
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OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY.

- C- THAT LEBANON HAS REQUIRED AND IS NOW AGAIN
REQUIRING THAT UNIFIL SHOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO "ASSIST
THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IN ENSURING THE RETURN OF ITS
EFFECTIVE AUTHORITY IN THE AREA", ACCORDING TO
OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED RESOLUTION
AND THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL CONFIRMED AND APPROVED BY RESOLUTION 426 (1978).

- D- THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON FINDS IT
IMPERATIVE THAT SUCH DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL IN THE BORDER
AREA AND ALONG THE "INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
BOUNDARIES" SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE EARLIEST BEFORE THE
EXPIRATION OF THE SIX-MONTHS ORIGINAL MANDATE OF THE
FORCES.

- 8- THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON DOES NOT
CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE, IN THIS LETTER, TO DISCUSS THE
MILITARY DETAILS OF DEPLOYMENT, BOTH OF ITS OWN ARMY AND
OF UNIFIL. WHILE FUTURE MOVEMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY
DETACHMENT PRESENTLY IN THE SOUTH CAN STILL BE REVIEWED
WITHIN THE PRESENT FRAMEWORK OF NEGOTIATIONS AND DECISION,
THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON FEELS THAT UNIFIL MAY WANT TO
ENJOY FULL LIBERTY CONCERNING ITS OWN MOVES OF OPERATION
IN THE BORDER AREA, AS IT HAS ELSEWHERE. SUCH A COURSE
OF ACTION WILL UNDOUBTLY BE CONSIDERED PERFECTLY
LEGITIMATE, AS LONG AS IT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
DISPOSITIONS AND SPIRIT OF RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426
(1978) AND THE PERTINENT DOCUMENTS.

- 9- HOWEVER, IT MAY BE RELEVANT TO BRING TO
YOUR ATTENTION A RECENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE
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SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL (AUGUST)
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON (AUGUST) CONFIRMING AN
AGREEMENT TO FULLY "REACTIVATE" OF THE "ISRAEL-LEBANON
MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION", AS SUGGESTED IN THE REPORT
OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF JUNE 13 (DOC S/12620/ADD.5
PARAGRAPH 16.D). THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IS ENCLINED

TO BELIEVE THAT THIS CONFIRMATION, OCCURING AT THE
PRESENT JUNCTURE, SHOULD FACILITATE THE TOTAL IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF RESOLUTION 425 AND 426 (1978) AND MORE
PARTICULARLY:

A- THE "RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY"
(RES. 425, PAR 3)

B- THAT "THE FORCE WILL USE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO PREVENT
THE RECURRENCE OF FIGHTING AND TO ENSURE THAT ITS AREA
OF OPERATION IS NOT UTILIZED FOR HOSTILE ACTIVITIES OF
ANY KIND". (REP. SEC. GEN.; RES 426, PAR 2.D)

C- THAT THE FORCE "WILL ENSURE THE PEACEFUL CHARACTER OF
THE AREA OF OPERATION, CONTROL MOVEMENT AND TAKE ALL
MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE EFFECTIVE
RESTORATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY." (REP. SEC. GEN.:
RES 426, PAR 6)

D- THAT THE FORCE IS BEING ESTABLISHED ON THE ASSUMPTION
THAT IT REPRESENTS AN INTERIM MEASURE UNTIL THE GOVERN-
MENT OF LEBANON ASSUMES ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITIES IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE OF
UNIFIL BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL NOT AFFECT THE
CONTINUED "FUNCTIONING OF ILMAC". (REP. SEC. GEN.; RES
426, PAR 7)

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2866
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
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- 10- WHILE THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON HAS
NOT YET FORMALLY DECIDED TO SEEK A RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE
OF UNIFIL OR A REDEFINITION OF THIS MANDATE, IT IS

ALREADY APPARENT THAT THE FIRST SIX-MONTHS HAVE NOT AND MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES SET BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. YET, IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO SEEK THE SPEEDIEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MODES OF ACTION. FOR WE ARE ALL STILL (AS STATED IN THE PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF RESOLUTION 425):

- "GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE-EAST, AND ITS CONSEQUENCES TO THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE" AND "CONVINCED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IMPEDES THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE-EAST".

- 11- THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WHILE BRINGING THIS WHOLE MATTER TO YOUR ATTENTION, LEAVES IT, AT PRESENT, ENTIRELY IN YOUR HANDS TO UNDERTAKE WHATEVER ACTION YOU MAY JUDGE BEFITTING. IT IS HOWEVER WISHED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND MADE AVAILABLE
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WHEREVER NECESSARY OR USEFUL.

- 12- IN CONCLUSION, THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WISHES TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS PARTICULAR GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO US IN THE VERY DIFFICULT AND TRAGIC DAYS WE ARE STILL LIVING IN: TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, HIS ASSISTANTS, THE COMMANDERS, OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF UNIFIL; TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL; AND TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF STATES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TROOPS AND ASSISTANCE TO UNIFIL. THEIR VARIOUS EFFORTS AND THE EFFORTS OF THEIR REPRESENTATIONS, IN THE FIELD, AT UN HEADQUARTERS, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS, IN BEIRUT, AND IN OTHER CAPITALS CONCERNED HAVE ALL BEEN A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. LEONARD

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